UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

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S/1998/808
26 August 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 26 AUGUST 1998 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the communiqué issued on 26 August 1998 by the General People's Committee for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, containing the response of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the joint letter dated 24 August 1998 from the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex distributed to the members of the Security Council and as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Ramadan A. BARG
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Communiqué issued by the General People's Committee for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

26 August 1998

The General People's Committee for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation has read the joint letter dated 24 August 1998 from the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations concerning the two Governments' consent to the trial in a neutral third country of the two individuals suspected of involvement in the explosion of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie. In this connection, the Committee would like to recall the human and material losses and the sufferings endured by the Libyan people, for no valid reason, as a result of the unfair sanctions imposed on it for seven years now because of the refusal to accept positive initiatives like this one, which were proposed by the Great Jamahiriya in an attempt to find a peaceful solution that would satisfy all the parties and guarantee the suspects a fair and impartial trial and which were welcomed and supported by international and regional organizations and by countries friendly to Libya, to whom we express our gratitude for their solidarity with the Libyan people and for their efforts to arrive at this solution which guarantees justice for the suspects and for the victims' families. The 27 February 1998 judgment of the International Court of Justice also confirmed the validity of the Great Jamahiriya's positions and the inadmissibility of sanctions. The Committee regrets that so many years had to pass before this solution, supported by every international organization, was finally accepted, just as it regrets the scant regard shown for the wishes of the international community and of the International Court of Justice.

In stating its acceptance of this evolution in the position of the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America, an evolution which it has demanded constantly, the General People's Committee for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation emphasizes the need to end the sanctions imposed under Security Council resolutions 748 (1992) and 883 (1993).

The General People's Committee for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation hopes that the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America seriously want to finally settle this issue, and to do so honestly and not out of necessity. The whole world can be sure of this if the procedure is free of any conditions by which the United Kingdom and United States Governments might obstruct the trial's progress.

The General People's Committee for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation wishes to reiterate that it will give positive consideration to the proposed measure and accord it all due importance and care.

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27 August 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions 731 (1992) of 21 January 1992, 748 (1992) of 31 March 1992 and 883 (1993) of 11 November 1993,

Noting the report of the independent experts appointed by the Secretary-General (S/1997/991),

Having regard to the contents of the letter dated 24 August 1998 from the Acting Permanent Representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of the United States of America to the Secretary-General (S/1998/795),

Noting also, in light of the above resolutions, the communications of the Organization of African Unity, the League of Arab States, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Islamic Conference (S/1994/373, S/1995/834, S/1997/35, S/1997/273, S/1997/406, S/1997/497, S/1997/529) as referred to in the letter of 24 August 1998,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. Demands once again that the Libyan Government immediately comply with the above-mentioned resolutions;

2. Welcomes the initiative for the trial of the two persons charged with the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 ("the two accused") before a Scottish court sitting in the Netherlands, as contained in the letter dated 24 August 1998 from the Acting Permanent Representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of the United States of America ("the initiative") and its attachments, and the willingness of the Government of the Netherlands to cooperate in the implementation of the initiative;

3. Calls upon the Government of the Netherlands and the Government of the United Kingdom to take such steps as are necessary to implement the initiative, including the conclusion of arrangements with a view to enabling the court described in paragraph 2 to exercise jurisdiction in the terms of the intended

Agreement between the two Governments, attached to the said letter of 24 August 1998;

4. Decides that all States shall cooperate to this end, and in particular that the Libyan Government shall ensure the appearance in the Netherlands of the two accused for the purpose of trial by the court described in paragraph 2, and that the Libyan Government shall ensure that any evidence or witnesses in Libya are, upon the request of the court, promptly made available at the court in the Netherlands for the purpose of the trial;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, after consultation with the Government of the Netherlands, to assist the Libyan Government with the physical arrangements for the safe transfer of the two accused from Libya direct to the Netherlands;

6. Invites the Secretary-General to nominate international observers to attend the trial;

7. Decides further that, on the arrival of the two accused in the Netherlands, the Government of the Netherlands shall detain the two accused pending their transfer for the purpose of trial before the court described in paragraph 2;

8. Reaffirms that the measures set forth in its resolutions 748 (1992) and 883 (1993) remain in effect and binding on all Member States, and in this context reaffirms the provisions of paragraph 16 of resolution 883 (1993), and decides that the aforementioned measures shall be suspended immediately if the Secretary-General reports to the Council that the two accused have arrived in the Netherlands for the purpose of trial before the court described in paragraph 2 or have appeared for trial before an appropriate court in the United Kingdom or the United States, and that the Libyan Government has satisfied the French judicial authorities with regard to the bombing of UTA 772;

9. Expresses its intention to consider additional measures if the two accused have not arrived or appeared for trial promptly in accordance with paragraph 8;

10. Decides to remain seized of the matter.

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28 August 1998
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Costa Rica, France, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Portugal, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Sweden, Tajikistan, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uzbekistan: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Having considered the situation in Afghanistan,

Recalling its previous resolution 1076 (1996) of 22 October 1996 and the statements of the President of the Security Council on the situation in Afghanistan,

Recalling also resolution 52/211 of the General Assembly,

Expressing its grave concern at the continued Afghan conflict which has recently sharply escalated due to the Taliban forces' offensive in the northern parts of the country, causing a serious and growing threat to regional and international peace and security, as well as extensive human suffering, further destruction, refugee flows and other forcible displacement of large numbers of people,

Concerned also by the increasingly ethnic nature of the conflict, by reports of ethnic and religious-based persecution, particularly against the Shiites, and by the threat this poses to the unity of the Afghan State,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan, and its respect for its cultural and historical heritage,

Deploring the fact that despite repeated pleas by the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Secretary-General to halt foreign interference in Afghanistan, including the involvement of foreign military personnel and the supply of arms and ammunition to all parties in the conflict, such interference continues unabated,

Reiterating its view that the United Nations must continue to play its central and impartial role in international efforts towards a peaceful resolution of the Afghan conflict,

Deeply concerned at the serious humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, and deploring in this regard the measures taken by the Taliban which resulted in the evacuation of the United Nations humanitarian personnel from Afghanistan and expressing hope for their early return under conditions of security,

Expressing its grave concern at the capture by the Taliban of the Consulate-General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Mazar-e-Sharif and at the fate of the personnel of the Consulate-General and of other Iranian nationals missing in Afghanistan,

Deeply disturbed by the deteriorating security conditions for United Nations and other international and humanitarian personnel,

Deeply concerned also at the continuing presence of terrorists in the territory of Afghanistan and at the production and trafficking of drugs,

Remaining deeply concerned at the continuing discrimination against girls and women and at other violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law in Afghanistan,

1. Reiterates that the Afghan crisis can be settled only by peaceful means, through direct negotiations between the Afghan factions under United Nations auspices, aimed at achieving a solution accommodating the rights and interests of all Afghans and stresses that territorial gains through military operations will neither lead to a durable peace in Afghanistan, nor contribute to a comprehensive settlement of the conflict in this multi-cultural and multi-ethnic country;

2. Demands that all Afghan factions stop fighting, resume negotiations without delay and preconditions, and cooperate with the aim of creating a broad-based and fully representative government, which would protect the rights of all Afghans and would observe the international obligations of Afghanistan;

3. Reiterates once again that any outside interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan should cease immediately and calls upon all States to take resolute measures to prohibit their military personnel from planning and participating in military operations in Afghanistan and immediately to end the supply of arms and ammunition to all parties to the conflict;

4. Calls upon all States neighbouring Afghanistan and other States with influence in the country to intensify their efforts under the aegis of the United Nations to bring the parties to a negotiated settlement;

5. Reaffirms its full support for the efforts of the United Nations, in particular the activities of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan and those of the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for Afghanistan in facilitating the political process towards the goals of national

reconciliation and a lasting political settlement with the participation of all parties to the conflict and all segments of Afghan society;

6. Condemns the attacks on the United Nations personnel in the Taliban-held territories of Afghanistan, including the killing of the two Afghan staff-members of the World Food Programme and of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Jalalabad, and of the Military Adviser to the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan in Kabul, and calls upon the Taliban to investigate urgently these heinous crimes, and to keep the United Nations informed about the results of the investigation;

7. Demands that all Afghan factions and, in particular the Taliban, do everything possible to assure the safety and freedom of movement of the personnel of the United Nations and other international and humanitarian personnel;

8. Condemns also the capture of the Consulate-General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Mazar-e-Sharif, and demands that all parties and, in particular the Taliban, do everything possible to ensure safe and dignified passage out of Afghanistan of the personnel of the Consulate-General and other Iranian nationals missing in Afghanistan;

9. Urges all Afghan factions and, in particular the Taliban, to facilitate the work of the international humanitarian organizations and to ensure unimpeded access and adequate conditions for the delivery of aid by such organizations to all in need of it;

10. Appeals to all States, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, specialized agencies and other international organizations to resume the provision of humanitarian assistance to all in need of it in Afghanistan as soon as the situation on the ground permits;

11. Expresses its readiness to call, on a priority basis, for all possible financial, technical and material assistance for the reconstruction of Afghanistan once the conditions are established by the achievement of the lasting peaceful solution of the Afghan conflict, and for the voluntary, safe and secure return of refugees and internally displaced persons;

12. Reaffirms that all parties to the conflict are bound to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law and in particular the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and that persons who commit or order the commission of grave breaches of the Conventions are individually responsible in respect of such breaches;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to continue investigations into alleged mass killings of prisoners of war and civilians as well as ethnically-based forced displacement of large groups of the population and other forms of mass persecution in Afghanistan, and to submit the reports to the General Assembly and the Security Council as soon as they become available;

14. Urges the Afghan factions to put an end to the discrimination against girls and women and to other violations of human rights as well as violations of

international humanitarian law and to adhere to the internationally accepted norms and standards in this sphere;

15. Demands the Afghan factions to refrain from harbouring and training terrorists and their organizations and to halt illegal drug activities;

16. Reminds all parties of the obligation to abide strictly by the decisions of the Security Council and expresses its firm intention, in accordance with its responsibility under the Charter, to consider such further steps as may be required for the implementation of this resolution;

17. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to keep it regularly informed of the situation in Afghanistan;

18. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.

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S/1998/811
28 August 1998

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Item 36 of the provisional agenda*
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS
AND THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY
AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 26 August 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the letter of Mr. Živadin Jovanović, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, addressed to Mr. Bronislaw Geremek, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland and Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, dated 14 August 1998 (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 36 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/53/150.

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Annex

Letter dated 14 August 1998 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia addressed to the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

I am writing to you in regard to the letters addressed to you by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of four Yugoslav republics, dated 1 July 1998, concerning the question of possible membership of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

First of all, we make a distinction between the question of State continuity and that of succession. Proceeding from the position that the question of succession addresses the distribution of assets and liabilities, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has always agreed to have these issues resolved on the basis of the rules of international law on succession of States and through agreement. As you are aware, these negotiations are under way, with the active participation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

As for continuity, I would like to recall that the Federal Assembly of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, in the declaration made on the occasion of the promulgation of the new Constitution of 27 April 1992, unambiguously stated that it would respect the "continuity of the international personality of Yugoslavia and shall continue to fulfil all the rights conferred to, and obligations assumed by, the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in international relations, including its membership in all international organizations and participation in international treaties ratified or acceded to by Yugoslavia". Let me remind you that Yugoslavia was one of the founding members of the United Nations and of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

By signing relevant agreements on the normalization of relations with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Macedonia accepted the "existence of the State continuity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia". Bosnia and Herzegovina did the same by signing the Joint Communiqué of Presidents Milošević and Izetbegović in Paris after the conclusion of the Dayton/Paris peace agreement (see appendix).

Finally, I would like to recall that the suspension of Yugoslavia's membership in OSCE, although baseless and politically motivated, was linked to the events in Bosnia and Herzegovina. By the signing of the Dayton/Paris peace agreement, with the cooperation and contribution of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in its implementation, these reasons ceased to exist. Consequently, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia demands that its full-fledged membership rights in that Organization be restored to it.

An early decision on the abolishment of the current suspension and full participation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in OSCE on the basis of equality would not only be proper from the point of view of universality of the Organization but would also contribute to the consolidation of stability, cooperation and security in the region.

Živadin JOVANOVIĆ

Appendix

Excerpts from relevant agreements on the normalization of relations with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

In the Agreement on the normalization of relations between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Croatia of 27 September 1996, article 5, it is stated:

> "Proceeding from the historical fact that Serbia and Montenegro existed as independent States before the creation of Yugoslavia, and bearing in mind the fact that Yugoslavia continued international legal personality of these States, the Republic of Croatia notes the existence of the State continuity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia".

In the Agreement on regulating the relations and promotion of cooperation between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Macedonia of 18 June 1996, article 4, it is stated:

> "Proceeding from the fact that Serbia and Montenegro existed as independent States before the creation of Yugoslavia, and in view of the fact that Yugoslavia has continued international legal personality of these States, the Republic of Macedonia respects the State continuity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia".

In the Joint Communiqué of 3 October 1996, signed by President Milošević and President of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina Alija Izetbegović, paragraph 4, it is stated:

> "The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will respect the integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina in accordance with the Dayton Agreement which affirmed the continuity of various forms of statial organization of Bosnia and Herzegovina that the peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina had during their history.
>
> Bosnia and Herzegovina accepts the State continuity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia".

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12 August 1998

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda item 61
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 26 August 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, and further to my letter of 12 August 1998 (A/52/1016-S/1998/746), I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, which took place today, 26 August 1998.

Four Turkish military aircraft RF-4 and two military aircraft F-4 entered the northern Nicosia flight information region in violation of international air traffic regulations. The four RF-4 aircraft thereupon violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by overflying for a considerable period of time the areas of Kormakitis, Kyrenia, Karpasia and Famagusta. The aircraft then exited the airspace of the Republic and the Nicosia flight information region, heading towards Turkey.

As stated in my previous letters, such unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia flight information region and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are in violation of international air traffic rules and, at the same time, they are in contravention of the provisions of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus which state that such overflights increase tension on the island and undermine efforts towards achieving a final settlement.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest against these new provocative acts by Turkey against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus. They are in blatant disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) James DROUSHIOTIS
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Security Council

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S/1998/813
27 August 1998

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LETTER DATED 27 AUGUST 1998 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED BY RESOLUTION 661 (1990) CONCERNING THE SITUATION BETWEEN IRAQ AND KUWAIT ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith, pursuant to paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 1153 (1998), a report of the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) concerning the situation between Iraq and Kuwait (see annex). The report, covering the Committee's activities in relation to the implementation of the relevant arrangements under Council resolution 986 (1995) during the first 90 days after the date of entry into force of paragraph 1 of resolution 1153 (1998), was adopted by the Committee on 27 August 1998.

(Signed) António MONTEIRO
Chairman
Security Council Committee established
by resolution 661 (1990) concerning the
situation between Iraq and Kuwait

98-25146 (E) 270898

Annex

Report of the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) concerning the situation between Iraq and Kuwait on the implementation of the arrangements in paragraphs 1, 2, 6, 8, 9 and 10 of resolution 986 (1995)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted to the Security Council pursuant to paragraph 14 of resolution 1153 (1998) of 20 February 1998, by which the Committee was requested, in close coordination with the Secretary-General, to report to the Security Council 90 days after the entry into force of paragraph 1 of that resolution on the implementation of the arrangements in paragraphs 1, 2, 6, 8, 9 and 10 of resolution 986 (1995). By paragraph 1 of resolution 1153 (1998), the Security Council decided that the provisions of resolution 986 (1995), except those contained in paragraphs 4, 11 and 12, would remain in force for a new period of 180 days beginning at 00.01 hours, Eastern Standard Time, on the day after the President of the Security Council had informed the members of the Security Council that he had received a report of the Secretary-General as requested in paragraph 5 of that resolution regarding the approval of an enhanced distribution plan submitted by the Government of Iraq. By resolution 1153 (1998), the Security Council also decided that the authorization given to States by paragraph 1 of resolution 986 (1995) would permit the import of petroleum and petroleum products originating in Iraq, including financial and other essential transactions directly relating thereto, sufficient to produce a sum, in the 180-day period, not exceeding a total of $5.256 billion.

2. The President of the Security Council informed Security Council members on 29 May 1998 that he had received the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General regarding the approval of an enhanced distribution plan on the same date. Hence, the new 180-day period under resolution 1153 (1998), commonly known as phase IV, commenced at 00.01 hours Eastern Standard Time on 30 May 1998.

3. The Committee has to date submitted eight reports to the Security Council on the oil-for-food programme, the first six reports (S/1997/213, S/1997/417, S/1997/692, S/1997/942, S/1998/187 and S/1998/469) on the implementation of the arrangements in paragraphs 1, 2, 6, 8, 9 and 10 of resolution 986 (1995) and two reports (S/1998/92 and S/1998/336) on the refining and clarifying of the Committee's working procedures in order to expedite the approval process for sending humanitarian supplies to Iraq.

II. SALE OF PETROLEUM AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

4. The export of petroleum from Iraq during phase IV has proceeded smoothly, with excellent cooperation among the oil overseers, the independent inspection agents (Saybolt), the Iraqi State Oil Marketing Organization and the national oil purchasers.

5. The overseers continue to advise the Committee on the pricing mechanisms, contract approval and modifications, management of the revenue objective and other pertinent questions related to export and monitoring, under Security Council resolutions 986 (1995), 1153 (1998) and 1175 (1998).

6. As at 20 August 1998, the overseers have reviewed and approved a total of 49 contracts, involving purchasers from 22 countries. One of the 49 approved contracts was subsequently cancelled by the Committee at the request of the Member State concerned. Four contracts were approved directly by the Committee. Another four contracts were still pending, owing to a lack of supporting documentation. The total quantity of oil approved for export under those approved contracts corresponds to approximately 310 million barrels for phase IV. All but one contract submitted employed the pricing mechanisms approved by the Committee on the recommendation of the overseers; one contract, which requires pricing mechanism for a new destination, is pending until the pricing mechanism is submitted by the State Oil Marketing Organization of Iraq to the Committee for approval.

7. As at 20 August 1998, 99 liftings, totalling 126.2 million barrels for a value of $1,184 million, have been completed. Letters of credit opened for each of the liftings were reviewed and confirmed by the overseers upon compliance with the terms and conditions of the contracts approved. About 51 per cent of the liftings were made at Ceyhan in Turkey. The largest share of the volume lifted went to Europe. At current low prices, total revenue projected for all the contracts approved for phase IV is estimated at around $3 billion (including the pipeline fees).

8. The overseers and the independent inspection agents (Saybolt) deployed to monitor oil loadings and transfers have worked closely to ensure the effective monitoring of the relevant oil installations as well as the liftings. They have continued to receive the full cooperation of the Iraqi authorities.

9. Pursuant to paragraph 2 of the procedures of the Committee (S/1996/636), 283 national oil purchasers, nominated by 45 countries, are authorized to communicate directly with the overseers.

10. Pursuant to paragraph 14 of the procedures of the Committee, the overseers have continued to report on a weekly basis on the contracts considered by them regarding the sale of petroleum originating in Iraq, including the cumulative quantity and approximate value of petroleum authorized for export. To date, 87 such reports have been submitted to the Committee.

III. EXPORT OF HUMANITARIAN SUPPLIES TO IRAQ

11. As in the previous three phases, during the first 90-day period of phase IV, the Committee continued to attach high priority to the work of processing contracts for supplying humanitarian goods to Iraq. Since the operation has been enhanced by resolution 1153 (1998) and the Secretariat has been reinforced, the pace at which those contracts are processed by the Secretariat and approved by the Committee has increased.

12. As mentioned above, on 27 May 1998, the Government of Iraq submitted an enhanced distribution plan, pursuant to paragraph 8 (a) (ii) of resolution 986 (1995), for the purchase and distribution of humanitarian supplies in phase IV. The enhanced distribution plan was approved by the Secretary-General on 29 May 1998 (S/1998/446).

13. As of 26 August 1998, the Secretariat received 408 applications under phase IV for exports of humanitarian supplies to Iraq. Of the total, 3 were subsequently cancelled, 351 circulated to Committee members for action and 54 were still being processed. Of those sent to the Committee for consideration, 297 were found eligible for payment from the United Nations Iraq Account, totalling approximately $860,495,993; 24 were placed on hold and 30 were pending under the "no-objection" procedure. In respect of the 297 applications which were found eligible for payment from the Iraq Account, 103 letters of approval were released on the basis of availability of funds and the remaining 194 were still waiting for sufficient funds to become available in the Iraq Account.

14. The confirmation of the arrival of goods by the United Nations independent inspection agents (Lloyd's Register) has been going on smoothly at the four entry points in Iraq at Umm Qasr, Trebil, Zakho and Al-Walid. As in previous phases, the Iraqi authorities have accorded the independent agents full cooperation in their work. By 22 August 1998, 1,423 consignments of humanitarian supplies under phase IV had been confirmed as having arrived in Iraq in total or in partial shipments.

IV. EFFORTS BY THE COMMITTEE TO EXPEDITE DELIVERIES OF HUMANITARIAN GOODS TO IRAQ

15. As mentioned in the Committee's report of 17 April 1998 (S/1998/336), the Committee adopted guidelines and points of understanding on simplified procedures to approve applications for foodstuffs, in which the Committee decided to confer upon the Secretariat the authority to determine whether applications for foodstuffs were in order under those guidelines and points of understanding and to submit them for approval to the Chairman of the Committee in accordance with the conditions set out in the guidelines and points of understanding (S/1998/336, appendix). The above-mentioned arrangement came into effect on 29 May 1998 when the Secretary-General reported to the Security Council pursuant to paragraph 5 of resolution 1153 (1998) (S/1998/446). However, due to the lack of a pricing mechanism submitted by the Government of Iraq and approved by the Committee, a prerequisite for the delegation of approving authorities, the arrangement has yet to be implemented and applications for foodstuffs have been processed according to the standard procedures.

16. With regard to the issue of reimbursement of the 53 per cent account from the 13 per cent account for joint purchases, the Committee received a non-paper on the matter from the Office of the Iraq Programme at its 172nd meeting, on 18 June 1998, and decided to pursue consideration of the matter on the basis of the non-paper.

V. MATTERS RELATING TO OIL SPARE PARTS AND EQUIPMENT TO IRAQ

17. Pursuant to paragraphs 12 and 13 of resolution 1153 (1998), the Secretary-General submitted on 15 April 1998 a report of the group of experts established pursuant to paragraph 12 of that resolution to determine, in consultation with the Government of Iraq, whether Iraq was able to export petroleum or petroleum products sufficient to produce the total sum referred to in paragraph 2 of the resolution, not exceeding a total of $5.256 billion (S/1998/330, annex). The Secretary-General recommended that the Security Council authorize the export to Iraq of an estimated $300 million worth of oil spare parts and equipment necessary to enable Iraq to increase most urgently the export of petroleum or petroleum products ($210 million for upstream requirements and $90 million for downstream requirements).

18. On 19 June 1998, the Security Council adopted resolution 1175 (1998), by which the Security Council authorized States to permit, notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 3 (c) of resolution 661 (1990), the export to Iraq of the necessary parts and equipment to enable Iraq to increase the export of petroleum and petroleum products, in quantities sufficient to produce the sum of $5.256 billion. By paragraph 2 of the same resolution, the Security Council also requested the Committee, or a panel of experts appointed by the Committee, to approve contracts for the parts and equipment according to lists of parts and equipment approved by the Committee for each individual project. By paragraph 3 of resolution 1175 (1998), the Security Council decided that the funds in the escrow account produced pursuant to resolution 1153 (1998) up to a total of $300 million may be used to meet any reasonable expenses, other than expenses payable in Iraq, which followed directly from contracts approved in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 1153 (1998).

19. On 28 July 1998, the Committee received a communication from the Office of the Iraq Programme outlining the procedures for the monitoring of the spare parts referred to by resolution 1175 (1998). The monitoring system, which would be kept under constant review in order to ensure its efficiency and effectiveness, would enable the United Nations to keep track of the spare parts from port of entry and customs clearance into Iraq, their storage and utilization for the purpose for which they were authorized.

20. As of 26 August 1998, the Committee received 61 applications to ship oil spare parts and equipment to Iraq under resolutions 1153 (1998) and 1175 (1998). Nine are still being reviewed by customs experts, 42 have been circulated to the members of the Committee for consideration, and 10 were returned to the applicant Missions for clarification or correction. Of those applications circulated, 15 have been approved with a total value of $24,641,790; 16 applications were placed on hold and 11 are still pending under the "no-objection" procedure.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

21. The Committee will, in close coordination with the Office of the Iraq Programme, make further efforts for the smooth and effective implementation of all relevant arrangements under the oil-for-food programme. It will review as

necessary the implementation of all the measures regarding the refining and clarifying of its working procedures in order to facilitate the timely delivery of humanitarian goods and the necessary oil spare parts and equipment to Iraq. The Committee reiterates its appreciation to all the parties concerned for their cooperation and contribution in this respect.

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REPORT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL CONCERNING THE CREDENTIALS OF THE ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVES OF SWEDEN ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received credentials signed on 17 August 1998 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden stating that Ms. Ann Bernes, Ms. Signe Burgstaller and Mr. Johan Frisell have been appointed alternate representatives of Sweden on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, these credentials are in order.

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28 August 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 26 AUGUST 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GEORGIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that, on 24 August 1998, there was a terrorist explosion in the city of Zugdidi, located in the security zone, killing two, including an underaged child, and wounding 55.

The explosion occurred in the regional administrative building, and the number of casualties would have been far greater if not for the incidental postponement of a large gathering that day.

The Government of Georgia intends to evaluate the above-mentioned incident after the investigation has been completed.

It is clear that the explosion is nothing but a treacherous provocation, intended to destabilize the situation in the conflict zone and in all of Georgia.

Deeply concerned at this horrible act, the Government of Georgia deems it necessary to focus the Security Council's attention on the situation which remains tense, within the framework of the United Nations Observer Mission, and believes that the perpetrated terrorist act must be viewed in the context of this situation.

Right after the adoption of the Security Council resolution of 31 July 1998, with the assistance of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and the countries and organizations involved in the process of the conflict settlement, it became possible to intensify Georgian-Abkhaz bilateral contacts and to repatriate some of the displaced persons from the Gali region.

The Government of Georgia is taking concrete measures to prevent the activities of the uncontrolled armed groups and calls upon all parties not to allow, and to participate in joint efforts to prevent, terrorist acts, diversions, assaults and kidnappings.

In his weekly address to the people of Georgia, President Eduard Shevardnadze elaborated on the implementation of the 31 July resolution of the Security Council on Georgia. While expressing the firm position of the Georgian authorities, he severely condemned "all forms and manifestation of terrorism and diversions, no matter who perpetrates these acts and where it comes from".

Work is being conducted to find new approaches, ways and channels to reconcile the Georgians and the Abkhazians. The Government of Georgia and the President of Georgia express their readiness for comprehensive, useful and yielding contacts.

The Government of Georgia remains committed to its proposal to create joint groups for the investigation of crimes and for the elaboration of measures for their prevention.

Under the current circumstances, it is impossible not to express strong resentment at the ongoing coercive actions against the returnees from the Gali region, or at the increasingly subversive actions from the right bank of the Inguri river, that is, from the territory controlled by the Abkhaz side.

The shooting from automatic weapons in the direction of Zugdidi and Georgian villages in other regions of the security zone has a systematic character.

On 3 August 1998, the village of Shamgona, in the Zugdidi district, was subjected to intense shooting from machine-guns. On 10 August 1998, a large group of boeviks that got over to the left bank of the Inguri river opened fire with automatic weapons and grenade launchers on the peaceful population of the villages of Shamgona and Rukhi. During the same night, the boeviks attacked the village of New Abastumani. A number of civilians were injured, and material damage was inflicted as a result of this bandit attack. On their way back, the assaulters mined the territory adjacent to the village.

There is corroborating evidence that mines have been laid in the Gali region, resulting in serious injuries among the civilian population and jeopardizing the personnel of the observer mission and the peacekeepers.

Facts have been uncovered about the smuggling of weapons and of military equipment in the territory of Abkhazia, Georgia and about the introduction of armed groups into the region from outside Georgia.

The Government of Georgia expresses hope that the United Nations will duly assess the current situation and will not delay taking active measures to promote the peace process, to support the existing positive initiatives in this direction, to take all measures to prevent the exacerbation of the dispute.

We express hope that the proposals of the interested sides on the improvement of security conditions, on the promotion of the negotiating process and on bilateral contacts will be duly reflected in the forthcoming report of the Secretary-General on Georgia.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Peter CHKHEIDZE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

UNITED
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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/1025
S/1998/816
28 August 1998

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda items 36, 37, and 87
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO
INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES
AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF
THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER
ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 27 August 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i of the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have been instructed to bring the following to your immediate attention. Today, the illegal Israeli municipality of Jerusalem gave the final approval to build a new Jewish settlement in the Ras al-Amud neighbourhood of occupied East Jerusalem. The plan to build 132 housing units for Jewish settlers inside the original boundaries of the Old City of East Jerusalem was approved by Israel, the occupying Power, in December 1996 and, if implemented, the new settlement would be in the middle of the crowded Arab neighbourhood of Ras al-Amud, which is inhabited by 11,000 Palestinians. It would also be overlooking Al-Haram Al-Sharif and the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

The Government of Israel is continuing its campaign to change the situation in Jerusalem and create a new demographic composition in the city. It is worth noting that this Israeli action is the latest in a series of measures and actions aimed at establishing a new colonial presence in the heart of Arab occupied East Jerusalem, as conveyed in a series of letters to the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1996 (A/51/731, S/1996/1044), 19 September 1997 (A/52/371, S/1997/727), 8 June 1998 (A/52/947, S/1998/481), and 9 June 1998 (A/52/948, S/1998/487).

The Security Council has adopted 16 resolutions regarding the city of Jerusalem, and has repeatedly declared that all measures and arrangements taken by Israel, the occupying Power, including the legislative and administrative ones, which aim at changing the legal status, demographic composition and

character of the city, are null and avoid and without any legal validity whatsoever. Furthermore, the Security Council has repeatedly reaffirmed the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 to all the territories occupied by Israel in 1967, including Jerusalem.

Obviously, the drive by Israel, the occupying Power, to judaize Jerusalem and to illegally change the status, demographic composition, and character of the Holy City is intensifying amid the inability of the Security Council to stop the Israeli violation of international law and relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

The Security Council, as the body responsible for maintaining international peace and security, has the responsibility to take immediate action in order to reverse the Israeli decision, bring an end to the Israeli violations and guarantee respect for the Council's resolutions and for international law.

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 36, 37 and 87, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mr. Marwan JILANI
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/817
28 August 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 27 AUGUST 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention the details of the latest two terrorist operations by the Iraq-based terrorist organization, "People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran", also known as MKO.

On 23 August 1998 at 1100 hours, Mr. Assadollah Lajevardi, the former head of the prisons organization of Iran was assassinated by two gunmen at his business in Teheran's bazaar. Mr. Asghar Reais Esmaeili, a friend of Mr. Lajevardi, and Mr. Zeinolabedin Masoudi, a passer-by, were also killed by the two gunmen. One of the assailants, who sustained serious injuries in the clash with the police, was arrested and died two days latter in custody, and the other gunman escaped the scene. Tight security measures have been adopted to locate and arrest the second assailant. The MKO claimed responsibility for this terrorist action on the same day.

Based on reliable information, the two gunmen had entered Iran to carry out the assassination, which had been planned by the MKO in Iraq. They were escorted by the Iraqi forces to the border point at the Nasiran sentry post of Iraq, where they infiltrated into the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran around the Saleh-Abad sentry post in the Ilam province.

On the same day, at 1300 hours, a two-person team of the same terrorist organization, trying to infiltrate into the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran from the border point of Khosro-Abad, engaged Iranian border guards. In the ensuing clash, lieutenant Akbar Bazigar, an Iranian border guard, was killed and the two infiltrators retreated to Iraqi territory, leaving behind an Iraqi Kalashnikov automatic rifle and a Browning handgun.

The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly condemns such terrorist activities, which emanate from Iraqi territory, cause human casualties and involve a gross violation of the territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran and of the terms of the ceasefire between the two countries. The Islamic Republic of Iran registers its strong objection to the Government of Iraq for aiding, abetting and harbouring known terrorists and for facilitating their cross-border

terrorist operations against Iran. Such practice displays total disregard by Iraq of the principle of good-neighbourly relations.

Iran holds Iraq responsible for such cross-border incursions and terrorist activities against its nationals and territorial integrity, and for their consequences.

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter were circulated as a document of Security Council.

(Signed) Hadi NEJAD-HOSSEINIAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

UNITED
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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/818
28 August 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 28 AUGUST 1998 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to inform you that your interim report on the situation in Tajikistan and the addendum thereto (S/1998/754 and Add.1) have been considered by the members of the Security Council. The members of the Council take note of the information contained in paragraph 23 of the report as well as the information contained in the addendum to the report in that regard.

(Signed) Danilo TÜRK
President of the Security Council

98-25276 (E) 280898

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General Assembly
Security Council

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GENERAL

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S/1998/819
31 August 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda items 20, 107 and 112
STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF
HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF
ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS,
INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES,
QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES,
RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS
AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Identical letters dated 28 August 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you a statement issued on 28 August 1998 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea concerning the release of Ethiopian soldiers who have been made captive as a result of the border conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 20, 107 and 112.

(Signed) Tesfa Alem SEYOUM
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

98-25434 (E) 010998

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ANNEX

Statement on the release of Ethiopian soldiers, issued on 28 August 1998 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Eritrea

The Government of Eritrea has today, 28 August 1998 released 71 Ethiopian soldiers made captive in the border conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia. This constitutes the first batch. The International Committee of the Red Cross has been duly informed of this decision. Details about their repatriation are being discussed.

This unilateral humanitarian decision emanates from the stated policy of the Government of Eritrea to release unconditionally Ethiopian soldiers captured in the unfortunate conflict. It also reflects the sincere desire of the Government of Eritrea to see an early resolution to the border problem between Eritrea and Ethiopia through legal and peaceful means.

The Government of Eritrea further reaffirms that it does not see any rationale to this conflict. The border problem can only be resolved through technical demarcation and, if need be, by arbitration on the basis of established colonial treaties.

The Government of Eritrea avails itself of this occasion to renew its calls to the international community to exert all necessary efforts to promote a legal and peaceful resolution to the problem.

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Security Council

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GENERAL

S/1998/820
31 August 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 30 AUGUST 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Acting upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a letter dated 30 August 1998 from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq, which refers to certain grave facts that have recently been revealed concerning the control which the United States has over the Special Commission established by the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 9 (b) (i) of Security Council resolution 687 (1991), including its schedule and methods of work. In that same letter, the Deputy Prime Minister urges the Security Council to conduct a serious investigation into the above-mentioned facts, to remedy the situation prevailing within the Special Commission so as to turn the latter into an impartial international body, in accordance with the requests formulated by Iraq in a communiqué issued by its leaders, on 5 August 1998 and, finally, to put an end to the suffering resulting from the embargo imposed on our country.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 30 August 1998 from the Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council

The resignation of Mr. Scott Ritter and the information published in the media have confirmed serious facts to which Iraq had drawn attention, both in official letters to the Security Council and in its statements, as well as during consultations it held with members of the Council. These facts are as follows:

1. The Special Commission established by the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 9 (b) (i) of Security Council resolution 687 (1991) is controlled by the United States, which acts in coordination and in collaboration with the United Kingdom. In fact, it is they who decide on the Commission's agenda and on its working methods. Information recently published concerning the ties of coordination that had developed between the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission, Richard Butler, and the United States Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, the existence of which Mrs. Albright herself acknowledged in an interview published in The New York Times on 17 August 1998, and the fact that Mr. Butler and certain members of the Special Commission act in coordination with United States information services and certain services of the State Department, constitute flagrant proof of the collusion which Iraq uncovered long ago and concerning which it has issued repeated warnings asking both you and the Security Council to correct the situation and thus remove the Special Commission from the control of the United States and turn it into an impartial and fair international body. It is to be regretted that these requests which Iraq has been making for years have not been received with the necessary understanding and support within the Security Council. The attempts made in recent months to appoint two people, chosen from among nationals of the countries which are permanent members of the Security Council, as advisers to the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission have made it impossible to achieve a real balance in the composition of the Special Commission.

2. Mr. Ritter's claims that the United States pressured the Special Commission to reduce its intrusive inspections is a travesty of the facts. However, these statements together with certain articles published in the American press demonstrate very clearly that it is the United States which, together with the Special Commission, has determined the timing of certain inspections so as to be able to carry out its plans and its military and diplomatic preparations, thereby putting the Council responsible for the issue in a completely ridiculous position.

By way of correction and in order to give you and the Security Council a clear picture of the number of inspections carried out during the period following the crisis of November 1997 and 20 July 1998, I should point out that the number of inspections came to 446 and that the list of the activities carried out by the Commission is as follows:

192 inspections in the area of missiles

28 inspections in the area of chemical weapons

192 inspections in the area of biological weapons

16 inspections focusing on imports and exports and

17 inspections carried out in the context of the Special Group.

3. The language used by Mr. Scott Ritter in his letter of resignation and the statements he made all provide indisputable confirmation that the claims that the Special Commission is a body under the authority of the Security Council are completely false. If they were true, how could an inspector who has worked in the Special Commission since 1981 and has held senior positions therein have been so presumptuous as to attack the higher body to which he was answerable and thereby attack the Secretary-General of the United Nations? How could he, an officer who is perfectly well aware of the rules of discipline, have acted thus?

The explanation for such behaviour is clear. In fact the group which has controlled the Special Commission for years was on the point of being uncovered. It is at that point that Scott Ritter launched his attacks in order the better to counter the attempts to uncover the lies proffered by the Special Commission regarding the disarmament issues and the measures taken by Iraq. It will be noted in this connection that far from reprimanding Scott Ritter for the way he spoke about the Security Council, the Executive Chairman on the contrary congratulated him. As for the fallacious nature of the accusations made by Scott Ritter regarding the so-called concealment of weapons in Iraq, we wish to point out that between 1991 and the date of the most recent inspection, which he himself headed in 1998, he participated in 28 inspection teams, headed 13 of them and carried out a total of 475 inspections. Furthermore, we challenge him and the Special Commission, to show the slightest evidence to substantiate the truth of his claims regarding the concealment of buried weapons, the composition of such weapons and related documents. It will be recalled, in this connection, that the sites which he inspected included premises belonging to the Republican Guard, the Special Guard, the special security services, information services and the Ministry of Defence as well as other sensitive sites.

4. Mr. Scott Ritter's letter raises questions about the methodology followed by the Special Commission, since it indicates that the latter "has good reason to believe that there are significant numbers of proscribed weapons and related components ... unaccounted for in Iraq today". Mr. Ritter accuses the Security Council of propagating an illusion both in relation to the work of the Special Commission and in attempting to deal specifically with the work completed by the Commission over the past seven years, yet he takes the liberty of considering that "reason to believe that there are ... proscribed weapons" constitutes a basis for the Commission's activities and inspection methodology.

It goes without saying that Mr. Scott Ritter is basing himself here not on concrete evidence or facts, but on false hypotheses.

5. Mr. Ritter's letter contains a typical attack against Iraq that takes no account of the rules applicable to officials of international organizations, which do not allow them to make statements against a Member State or to make public statements concerning their mission. In this connection, we wish to point out that Mr. Ritter's position does not represent a unique case, but has a number of precedents: other experts, in the past, have made statements about their activities within the Special Commission, and no measures have been taken against them. This was the case, for example, of the American David Kay and the Englishman Terence Taylor, and even of the Vice-Chairman of the Special Commission, Mr. Duelfer, who appeared on the programme "Impact" broadcast by CNN on 2 March 1998, along with a group of experts from the Commission, in order to raise fears about the alleged capacities of Iraq's biological programme at the time of the presidential sites crisis, which was wholly fabricated by the Special Commission.

6. The coordination between the Special Commission and Israel, which was revealed only recently, had already been highlighted many times by Iraq. We wish to ask you and the Council how you could have allowed an organ under the Security Council's authority to examine issues concerning Iraq in coordination with one of the parties, in this case Israel. In addition, the Council is supposed to ensure the implementation of paragraph 14 of its resolution 687 (1991), adopted under Chapter VII, as well as of paragraphs 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 of that resolution. According to this paragraph, Israel's weapons of mass destruction must be eliminated, since the entire Middle East is to be made a zone free from such weapons. How, then, can you and the Council agree to allow an organ under the Council's authority and operating on behalf of the United Nations to act in coordination with Israel against Iraq, while doing nothing to ensure the implementation of paragraph 14 of the Council's resolution?

Iraq requests the Security Council to open a serious investigation of all these facts and to correct the situation within the Special Commission so that it may become an impartial international body and not an information service for a particular State, as it requested previously in the statement published by the Iraqi Presidency on 5 August 1998.

We have always contended that, were the Special Commission a neutral and impartial international body, it would have informed the Security Council long ago that its task under resolution 687 (1991), section C, as well as the mission of the International Atomic Energy Agency, had been completed. That would have enabled the Council to end the injustice being perpetrated against Iraq and to implement paragraph 22 of resolution 687 (1991), in the interest of justice and equity. However, this has not happened because the Commission responsible for the technical implementation of the resolution is neither neutral nor impartial, and because the United States of America exercises arbitrary power within the Council and is preventing it from recognizing the facts.

The Security Council is requested to put a stop to this farce being staged under cover of the United Nations and the Security Council and to end the tragedy caused by the embargo imposed on Iraq.

(Signed) Tariq AZIZ
Deputy Prime Minister